

Claims 15-17 and 21-23 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

The present application is a divisional of parent application Serial No. 09/055,098 and is being amended to cancel subject matter claimed in the parent application.

Claim 15 is being amended to recite the claimed quantities of polymeric resin, fiber and blowing agent in parts per hundred. This amendment is being made for clarity. This amendment introduces no new matter and is supported in the specification as filed, *inter alia*, on page 13 in Table 1.

Claim 16 is being amended to remove the redundant recitation of “for increasing melt elasticity and strength,” and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants’ invention.

Claims 21-22 are being added to claim several specific embodiments of the present invention. Claim 21 recites the amount of acrylic modifier in the composite material, and is supported in the original specification, *inter alia*, on page 13 in Table 1. Claim 22 recites that the foamed composite material has a specific gravity of less than about 1.2 g/cc and is supported in the original specification, *inter alia*, on page 13 in Table 1. Claim 23 recites that the foamed composite material has a flexural modulus from about 100,000 to about 450,000 and is supported in the original specification, *inter alia*, on page 3, lines 12-14.

Accordingly, and in view of the above amendment, Applicants respectfully requests early action on the merits in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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